

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1010

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XA OAU PROG PFOR ET US FT
SUBJ: VIEWS OF CAMEROONIAN AMBASSADOR ON AFRICAN MATTERS

SUMMARY. KNOWLEDGEABLE CAMEROONIAN AMBASSADOR WHO DEAN OF
DIP CORPS GAVE CHARGE FEB 17 SOME OF HIS VIEWS ON FOLLOWING

OAU LOME COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AND LOCAL ETHIOPIAN SCENE.
IN PROCESS, HE TOUCHED ON SUDANESE REQUESTS TO MOVE OAU HEADQUART-
ERS, LIBYAN REQUEST TO POSTPONE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT, HIS IMPRESSION
THAT NEITHER SUDAN NOR ETHIOPIA WOULD RAISE THEIR CURRENT PROBLEMS
AT LOME ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF PRESENT EFFORTS BY CERTAIN AFRICAN
COUNTRIES TO FIND WAYS OF RESOLVING PROBLEM, ERITREA, TFAI, SOME
IMPRESSIONS OF PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISUT, ZIMBABWE , AND AN IMPRES-
SION OF CURRENT U.S. POLICY TOWARD ETHIOPIA. NEWEST DEVELOPMENT RE
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ETHIOPIAN/SUDANESE RELATIONS WAS EXPECTED ARRIVAL OF TANZANIAN
VICE PRESIDENT IN ADDIS FEB 17 TO EXPLORE WITH ETHIOPINS
POSSIBLE WAYS OF RECONCILING THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH SUDAN.
END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE HAD WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION MORNING FEB 17 WITH CAMER-
OONIAN AMBASSADOR DICKO, WHO BOTH DEAN OF DIP CORPS AND DEAN OF

AFRICAN GROUP, AND AS LONG-TIME (SEVEN YEARS) AND HIGHLY RESPECTED OBSERVER LOCAL SCENE, IS VERY CONVERSANT WITH OAU MATTERS AND WITH AFRICAN SENTIMENTS. FOLLOWING EMERGED:

A. LOME COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING: IN ADDITION TO SUCH ITEMS AS ZIMBABWE AND DJIBOUTI, COUNCIL WILL TAKE UP OAU REORGANIZATION PLAN, SUDAN'S REQUEST TO MOVE OAU HEADQUARTERS AND LIBYAN REQUEST TO POSTPONE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR CIARO IN EARLY MARCH.

1) REORGANIZATION PLAN-ALTHOUGH COMPLETED SOME TIME AGO, IT HAS NEVER BEEN ADDRESSED BY MINISTERS. DISCUSSIONS MAY NOT BE COMPLETED AT LOME AND MAY HAVE TO BE CARRIED OVER TO NEXT MEETING AT LIBREVILLE.

2) SUDANESE REQUEST- HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY REQUEST WOULD GET VERY FAR ALTHOUGH SUDAN HAD "SOME SUPPORT." HE COULDN'T SEE MOST AFRICAN STATES SUPPORTING ANY MOVE TO CHANGE LOCATION EVERY TIME BILATERAL PROBLEMS AMONG AFRICANS PROMPTED SUCH AN INITIATIVE. HE FURTHER THOUGHT THAT WHILE SECURITY IN ADDIS WAS OF SOME CONCERN, ETHIOPIANS WERE MANAGING CONTROL SITUATION REASONABLY WELL AND THAT ALMOST ANY OTHER LOCALE WOULD HAVE SAME PROBLEM IN ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER.

3) AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT-LIBYANS HAVE REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT, APPARENTLY BECAUSE THEY "NOT PREPARED" (HE NOT SURE WHETHER THIS MEANT JUST LIBYANS OR OTHER ARAB STATES AS WELL). HOWEVER, 33 AFRICAN STATES HAVE INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO PROCEED TO CIARO AFTER LOME, AND HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD CARRY DAY.

B. ETHIOPIAN/SUDAN RELATIONS: HE HOPED THESE WOULD NOT BE RAISED AT LOME. SO FAR, TO BEST HIS KNOWLEDGE, NEITHER COUNTRY HAD INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO DO SO. FOUR AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE HAVE OFFERED HELP RECONCILE DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW AND HE THOUGHT IT BEST LET THEM PROCEED WITHOUT OPEN DEBATE AT LOME. FOUR COUN-
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TRIES ARE CHANA, NIGERIA, SENEGAL AND TANZANIA. MESSAGE FROM SENEGALESE EMISSARY DELIVERED FEB 14 TO PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU (ADDIS ABABA 978 NOTAL) WAS WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, AND TANZANIAN VICE PRESIDENT WAS ARRIVING ADDIS AFTERNOON FEB 17 TO TRY TO GET SOMETHING GOING. EFFORTS BY THIRD COUNTRIES TO ASSIST WITH RECONCILIATION HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED BY FORMER PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANT'S DEATH TWO WEEKS AGO.

C. ERITREA: DICKO THOUGHT AT LEAST 85 PERCENT OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES STRONGLY SUPPORTED TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY PRINCIPLE ENSHRINED IN OAU CHARTER. MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAD PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO ETHIOPIA'S AND THEREFORE COULD NOT AFFORD TAKE DIFFERENT POSITION. WHAT IS NEEDED IN ERITREA IS TO GET INSURGENTS AWAY FROM INSISTENCE ON OUTRIGHT INDEPENDENCE AND THUS FAR EPMG HAS NOT COME UP WITH ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH PROPOSALS. HE CITED U.S. FEDERAL SYSTEM, NIGERIA, CAMEROON AND SOLUTION OF SOUTHERN SUDANESE PROBLEMS AS POSSIBLE, BUT THUS FAR UNTRIED, EXAMPLES. ETHIOPIA MIGHT FIND OTHER ETHIOPIAN AREAS DEMANDING LIKE TREATMENT, BUT THOUGHT THAT WAS STILL MANAGEABLE PROBLEM.

D. TFAI: HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT HOW THIS WAS GOING TO TURN OUT.

AFRICANS WANTED ROUDTABLE OF ALL CONCERNED TFAI GROUPS AT ACCRA BEFORE SAME GROUPS ATTENDED SIMILAR MEETING IN PARIS, BUT TIMING OF MEETINGS HAD GROWN CONFUSED. IN LONG RUN SOME KIND OF OAU GUARANTEE OF TFAI INDEPENDENCE MIGHT BE NECESSARY. AFRICANS, INCLUDING OAU, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM ACCEPTING TFAI ARRANGEMENT OF ANY KIND (INCLUDING MILITARY) WITH FRENCH AFTER INDEPENDENCE, PROVIDED ARRANGEMENT WAS FREELY (HE REPEATED WORD SEVERAL TIMES) ENTERED INTO BY PARTIES CONCERNED. ETHIOPIANS WERE APPARENTLY CONCERNED, INTER ALIA, WITH POSSIBILITY THAT INDEPENDENT TFAI WOULD BECOME MEMBER OF ARAB LEAGUE. SINCE NUMBER OF AFRICAN NATIONS WERE ALREADY MEMBERS OF ARAB LEAGUE, INCLUDING SOMALIA, HE COULDN'T SEE WHY THIS WOULD BE A PROBLEM.

E. MENGISTU/ETHIOPIA: HE HAD MET WITH MENGISTU MORNING FEB 17 (APPARENTLY IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEAN OF DIP CORPS) AND HAD IMPRESSION MENGISTU WOULD BE SEEING ALL CHIEFS OF MISSION IN ADDIS ONE BY ONE. HE FOUND HIM RELAXED AND "MASTER" OF SITUATION. MENGISTU'S PRIMARY CONCERNS SEEMED BE EXTERNAL AS OPPOSED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNAL MATTERS, APPARENTLY IN BELIEF THAT IF ETHIOPIA COULD RESOLVE ITS EXTERNAL DIFFICULTIES, SOLUTION TO INTERNAL PROBLEMS WOULD BECOME MUCH EASIER. DICKO THOUGHT ADDIS ATMOSPHERE HAD CALMED SOME, BUT THAT SCHOOLS WERE STILL MAJOR PROBLEM.

F. UNITED STATES: AFTER INQUIRING WHETHER U.S. POSITION VIS-A-VIS ETHIOPIAN HAD CHANGED AND BEING ASSURED THAT PROGRAMS WERE STILL CONTINUING (HE SEEMED PLEASED TO HEAR IT), DICKO IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S QUESTION SAID AFRICANS IN ADDIS PERCEIVED WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE A SLIGHT COOLING IN U.S. ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS AND MORE "PRUDENT" U.S. ATTITUDE. HE HOPED U.S. WOULDN'T BE TOO PRUDENT SINCE THIS WOULD RUN RISK OF OPENING DOORS TOO WIDE EASTERN INFLUENCES.

G. ZIMBABWE: AGREEING THAT SUBJECT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT LOME, HE NOTED SOME AFRICANS WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT LOME, HE NOTED SOME AFRICANS HAD BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO COME DOWN SOLELY ON SIDE PATRIOTIC FRONT. LUSAKA RESOLUTION WAS BALANCING ACT. DICKO RECOGNIZED THAT MUZOREWA COMMANDED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT WITHIN RHODESIA AND SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED. TIENKEN

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